

In The Claims

1. - 7. (Canceled)

8. (Presently Amended) A protective covering for use with a table top and child's chair, said child's chair having a front arm portion and two side arm portions, comprising:

a main protective portion;

a front protective portion attached to said main protective portion and adapted to operatively attach to said front arm portion of said child's chair, said front protective portion being adapted to extend from said table top to said child's chair;

said front protective portion having a proximal end adjacent to said main protective portion and a distal end opposite said proximal end;

proximal coupling elements on said front flap at said proximal end and distal coupling elements at said distal end to releasably couple said placemat to said front arm of said chair by connecting said proximal coupling elements to said distal coupling elements, thereby securing said proximal end to said distal end;

two side protective portions attached to and extending from said front protective portion, each of said side protective portions having a left side and a right side, at least one of said side protective portions being adapted to operatively attach around one of said side arm portions by operatively connecting said left side of said at least one side protective portion to said right side of the same side protective portion, each of said side protective portions having a coupling elements on said left side and said right side for operatively connecting said left side of one of said side protective portions to said right side of the same side protective portion.

9. (Original) The protective covering of claim 8 wherein said coupling elements are selected from the group comprising: adhesive portions, hook-and-loop fabric; mutually attracting magnetic portions; ball-and-socket snaps; hook and loop fasteners; ribbon ties; and traditional button closures.

10. (Original) The protective covering of claim 9 wherein said main protective portion comprises a bottom side for contacting said table top and a top side, said bottom side having skid resistant portions for resisting skidding of said protective covering across said table top.

11. (Original) The protective covering of claim 9, wherein said main protective portion includes a pocket formed therein.

12. (Original) The protective covering of claim 9 wherein said side arm portions are substantially orthogonal to said front protective portion.

13. - 35. (Cancelled)

35. (Presently Amended) A placemat for use with a table and a chair, said chair having side arms and a front arm, comprising:

a main placement area for placement on said table;

two side flaps extending from a side of said main placemat area, each side flap having a left side and a right side;

coupling elements on each of said right and left sides of said side flaps to releasably couple said placemat around said side arms of said chair by operatively connecting said coupling element contained on said left side of one of said side flap to said coupling element contained on said right side of the same side flap;

a front flap disposed between said two side flaps, said front flap having a proximal end adjacent to said main placemat area and a distal end opposite said proximal end; and
a proximal coupling element on said front flap at said proximal end and a distal coupling element at said distal end to releasably couple said placemat to said front arm of said chair by connecting said proximal coupling element to said distal coupling element.

36. (Original) The placemat of claim 35 wherein said coupling elements are selected from the group comprising: hook and loop segments, metal brads, magnets, sticking pads and buttons.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously Amended) The placemat of claim 35, said placemat area having a top surface and a bottom surface, further comprising a pocket, said pocket being provided in said top surface of said main placement area.

40. (Previously Amended) The placemat of claim 35, wherein said placemat area has a top surface and a bottom surface, said top surface being constructed of vinyl.

41. (Previously Amended) The placemat of claim 35, wherein said placemat area has a top surface and a bottom surface, said bottom surface being constructed of a skid resistant material.

42. (Previously Amended) The placemat of claim 35, wherein said placemat area has a top surface and a bottom surface, further comprising an intermediate layer located between said top surface and said bottom surface.

43. (Original) The placemat of claim 42, wherein said top surface is constructed of a translucent or transparent material and said intermediate layer is constructed of a printed fabric.

44. (New) The placemat of claim 8 wherein said distal end defines an edge, said distal coupling element being positioned substantially coextensively with said edge; and said proximal end and said main placemat area define a juncture therebetween, said proximal coupling element being positioned substantially coextensively with said junction.

45. (New) The placemat of claim 35 wherein said distal end defines an edge, said distal coupling element being positioned substantially coextensively with said edge; and said proximal end and said main placemat area define a juncture therebetween, said proximal coupling element being positioned substantially coextensively with said junction.